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SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/03/2019
TAGS: [AF](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [NATO](#)
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO RFG ON KEEPING DUTCH IN SOUTHERN
AFGANISTAN

REF: USNATO 563

Classified By: PDAS Nancy McElDowney for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) This cable is in response to reftel request for guidance, see para 2.

[1](#)2. (C) Post should draw from the below points in responding to the Dutch demarche received by USNATO on December 2.

-- The Dutch military mission in Southern Afghanistan is playing a vital role in our international efforts. We strongly encourage you to continue with the current mandate.

-- We are not in a position to answer hypothetical questions on how the U.S. and other Allies and partners will reorganize if the Government of the Netherlands decides to change its military mission.

[1](#)3. (C) Background: Per specific questions in reftel:

-- There are currently NO plans for the U.S. to assume lead nation responsibility in Uruzgan province.

-- Protection for the remaining Dutch civilian PRT elements, should that be necessary in the event of a Dutch withdrawal of military forces, will be addressed by ISAF at the appropriate time.

-- The question of what role the Dutch military could play outside of Uruzgan should be answered by ISAF.

CLINTON